

## TEXAS DRUG SUSPECTS USE LOCAL MOTEL

Acting on a tip, SSCENT officers responded to a complaint of marijuana being sold out of a local motel in Mason County. SSCENT officers set up surveillance at the motel. A short time later, the officers observed the suspects leaving. With the assistance of troopers from the Hart Post, the suspects were stopped. SSCENT officers seized 15 pounds of marijuana and arrested two suspects, both from Texas. Later, SSCENT officers arrested a third suspect, a Mason County man, for his involvement in marijuana trafficking. All of the suspects were sentenced to jail time; however, one of the three has fled the state and is currently a fugitive.

## THE SLIP DIDN'T WORK

Recently, undercover SSCENT officers and their informant met two individuals from the Muskegon area at a rest area off of US-31 in Oceana County. The undercover officers were there to purchase cocaine. A week prior to that, SSCENT officers had purchased cocaine from the same suspect.

Two Muskegon suspects arrived, in two separate vehicles, each parking a distance apart at the rest area. The main suspect then met with the informant and undercover officers. An exchange of \$15,000 was made for the cocaine. When the deal was done, the two suspects switched vehicles to throw off anyone who might have followed them. Unfortunately for the suspects, SSCENT officers are very observant. Both suspects were arrested trying to leave the rest area.

# 90 out of 100

After smoking or injecting  
methamphetamine  
—just once or twice—  
90 out of 100 users  
become hooked

Formula for Disaster  
**METHAMPHETAMINE**

## COMMANDER'S COLUMN



### D/Lt. Matt Kanitz

#### Michigan State Police

We are all well aware that there is a direct correlation between drugs and crime in our community. We also know that criminals do more than destroy lives, they also steal the sense of safety, well-being and freedom in our community.

Armed with this knowledge, community leaders and law enforcement agencies in Manistee, Mason and Oceana counties partnered with the Michigan State Police and federal agencies to establish the State, Sheriff, Chief's Enforcement of Narcotics Team (SSCENT). SSCENT is a multijurisdictional team with one common goal in mind, removing drug dealers from our community's streets and neighborhoods, so you can live your life with a sense of peace and tranquility.

The concept of SSCENT is based on the simple premise that no one agency has the ability or resources to respond single-handedly to the drug problems in our area. Therefore, we had to look at combining our talent and resources into a strong specialized drug enforcement team, aimed specifically at removing drug criminals from our streets.

As a citizen of Manistee, Mason or Oceana County, you stand to benefit greatly by the collective efforts of SSCENT. Whether using local street enforcement efforts, interdiction,

**"I am convinced that by combining our talent, resources and technology, we are more successful in our efforts."**

education/prevention, or taking full advantage of the highly specialized crime fighting tools offered by state and federal agencies, SSCENT officers are committed to making a difference in our community.

While cocaine and marijuana still seem to be the drugs of choice found in many of our communities, now on the scene, and positioned to spread like a brush fire, is methamphetamine. Counties across the state have seen an alarming increase in methamphetamine clandestine labs (cooking sites) and meth related activities as well.

Methamphetamine is like no other drug we have seen before in this area, especially due in part to the fact that it is manufactured (cooked) right here in our community and not imported, as is the case with other illegal drugs. As you read about methamphetamine

**SSCENT's Goal:  
Removing drug dealers from streets and neighborhoods, and restoring a sense of peace and tranquility in our community.**

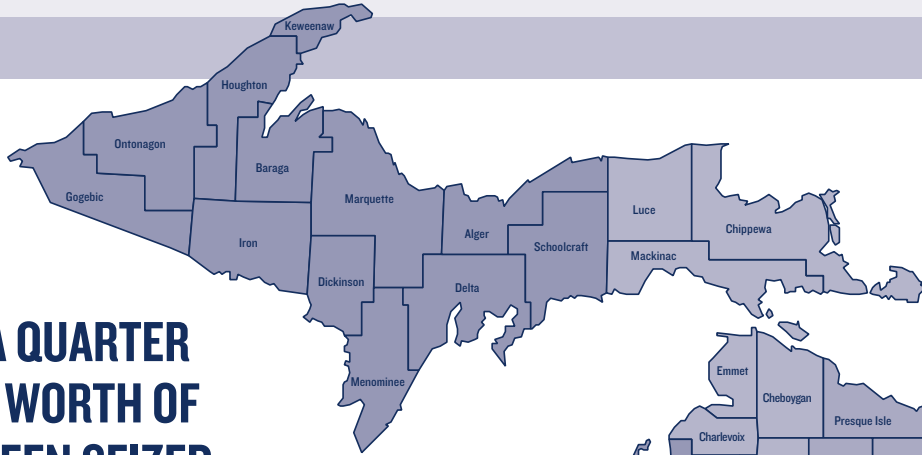
As Commander of SSCENT, I am convinced that by combining the talent, resources and technology of our local agencies with those of state and federal agencies, we are more successful in our drug fighting efforts. As you can see by the 2003 numbers, we investigated 113 cases, made 95 arrests and stopped the dissemination of more than \$1 million dollars worth of drugs directed toward the children, family and friends in Manistee, Mason and Oceana County communities.

In this newsletter, you will see how deadly and dangerous this drug really is. I encourage you to become aware of the dangers associated with methamphetamine, to report any suspicious activities, and to help SSCENT officers in their efforts to keep this devastating drug from taking over our community.

**TO REPORT DRUGS AND DRUG DEALERS CALL  
ALL CALLS REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL**

**(800) 994-TIPS**  
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# LOCAL MULTIJURISDICTIONAL DRUG TEAMS HAVING IMPACT ON MICHIGAN DRUG EFFORTS

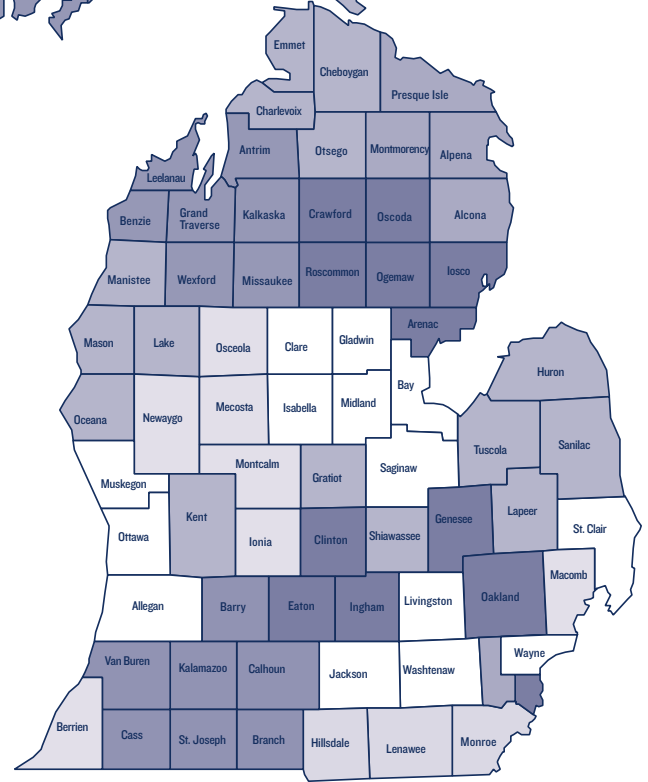


## SINCE 2000, ALMOST A QUARTER OF A BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF STREET DRUGS HAVE BEEN SEIZED IN MICHIGAN BY DRUG TEAMS

In the Spring of 1977, the Michigan State Police joined with local and county law enforcement agencies to begin a new concept in fighting drugs and drug related crimes in local communities. The concept was simple - no one agency had all the manpower or resources to adequately deal with the increase in drugs and drug related crimes finding its way into Michigan communities and neighborhoods. By combining local resources with the resources of the Michigan State Police, Criminal Investigation Division, along with state police and federal drug information identification and tracking systems, Michigan took a major step in bringing the fight against drug dealers and drug related crimes to the local level. And, it has worked!

Currently, multijurisdictional teams service 81 of 83 counties in the State of Michigan. Local officers from approximately 550 city and township law enforcement agencies, county deputies from 81 counties and troopers from the Michigan State Police are assigned to these task forces. The teams are funded in part through the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Drug Control Policy, Michigan State Police, and local governing bodies.

Just in the past four years, the multijurisdictional task forces have been responsible for arresting and removing approximately 14,450 drug criminals from our neighborhoods, streets and schools. In four years, the local task forces have also removed more than \$274,478,398 in street-drugs from local communities-drugs intended for our children and loved ones. As a result of the dedicated efforts of the multijurisdictional teams, tens of millions of dollars in assets and property that would have been used to continue drug trafficking in our communities - has been seized and removed from drug dealers.



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B.A.Y.A.N.E.T.	Bay Area Narcotics Enforcement Team	989/790-6581
C.M.E.T.	Central Michigan Enforcement Team	989/352-6738
F.A.N.G.	Flint Area Narcotics Group	810/233-3689
H.U.N.T.	Huron Undercover Narcotics Team	989/356-3395
J.N.E.T.	Jackson Narcotics Enforcement Team	517/784-2990
M.A.G.N.E.T.	Mid-Michigan Area Narcotics Enforcement Team	989/725-7254
M.E.T.	Metropolitan Enforcement Team	616/456-4801
S.A.N.E.	Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement	231/238-8692
S.S.C.E.N.T.	State, Sheriffs, Chiefs Enforcement Team	231/843-7045
S.T.I.N.G.	Strike Team Investigative Narcotics Group	989/345-2304
S.W.E.T.	South-West Enforcement Team	269/962-1225
T.N.T.	Traverse Narcotics Team	231/922-0993
T.N.U.	Thumb Narcotics Unit	989/673-8600
T.C.M.	Tri-County Metro Narcotics Squad	517/394-5588
U.P.S.E.T.	Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team	906/346-9289
W.E.M.E.T.	West Michigan Enforcement Team	616/994-6520
C.O.M.E.T.	County of Macomb Enforcement Team	586/790-3990
W.W.N.	Western Wayne Narcotics	734/397-9811
D.R.A.N.O.	Down River Area Narcotics Organization	734/479-1710
L.A.W.N.E.T.	Livingston and Washtenaw Narcotics Enforcement Team	810/227-7897
O.M.N.I.	Office of Monroe Narcotics Investigations	734/848-3445

# STATE, SHERIFF AND CHIEF'S ENFORCEMENT OF NARCOTICS TEAM TAKING DRUGS & DRUG CRIMINALS

# off our streets



## SMILE! YOU'RE ON CAMERA!

SSCENT officers, working in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service, converged on a marijuana grow plot in the Manistee National Forest, Manistee County. Through hidden video surveillance, authorities were able to narrow down the exact days and times the suspect would tend to his plants. Surveillance was then conducted and SSCENT officers observed the suspect tending to his plants. Taken totally by surprise, the would-be drug gardener was arrested by SSCENT officers. Executing a search warrant, SSCENT officers found additional marijuana in the suspect's house.

## PENTWATER TO HESPERIA TRIP NETS DOPE

SSCENT officers recently initiated a surveillance operation on a suspected drug trafficker after receiving information that the suspect would be traveling from Pentwater to pick up cocaine in Hesperia. The suspect and vehicle were located in Pentwater and officers followed him to a residence outside of Hesperia. On his return trip to Pentwater, the suspect was stopped by authorities and arrested for possession of crack cocaine. Information obtained by SSCENT officers during the arrest was then used to execute a search warrant for the Hesperia residence. There, SSCENT officers confiscated additional cocaine and marijuana.

## YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE!

Oceana County Sheriff's deputies recently stopped a subject wanted on charges in Tennessee. Suddenly, the suspect fled his vehicle and successfully eluded capture on foot. Deputies searching the suspect's vehicle found numerous components used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

A few days later, SSCENT officers received a tip as to the location where the suspect might be hiding. A search of the suspected residence found more components used to manufacture methamphetamine. At the same time, the Michigan State Police helicopter was in the area and was asked by SSCENT officers to check another area where officers believed the suspect might be hiding.

The suspect, hearing the MSP helicopter approaching, fled the area in a vehicle with a female passenger. After a lengthy and dangerous chase with the suspect running oncoming cars off the road and



trying to cause an accident for the patrol cars, the suspect and passenger exited the vehicle and fled on foot. A perimeter was set up and at nightfall the suspect was spotted and apprehended without further incident. The female passenger was apprehended as she exited the woods. Both face charges of possessing precursors used to manufacture methamphetamine.

## SSCENT 2004 DRUG FIGHTING STATS

TOTAL CASES

**146**

NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED

**80**

DRUG SEIZED / PURCHASED

**\$1,506,315**

(STREET VALUE)



**REPORT DRUG ACTIVITY (800) 994-TIPS**

ALL CALLS REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL

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